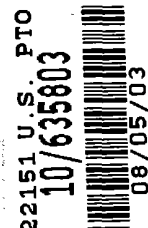


DLS:cmw 08/05/03
Attorney Reference Number 4641-65955
PATENT

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EV 352376492 US
DATE OF DEPOSIT: August 5, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450



Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of:

Inventor(s): Yukiharu Okubo and Hidekazu Kikuchi

For: RETICLE-HOLDING PODS AND METHODS FOR HOLDING THIN, CIRCULAR
RETICLES, AND RETICLE-HANDLING SYSTEMS UTILIZING SAME

Enclosed are:

- ☒ 19 pages of specification, 7 pages of claims, an abstract and a Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney (unsigned).
- ☒ 10 sheet(s) of drawings.
- ☒ A certified copy of Japanese patent application 2002-226926.

| FILING FEE | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|
| | Claims | Number | Number | | Basic Fee |
| For | Filed | Free | Extra | Rate | \$750.00 |
| Total Claims | 35 | 20 | = 15 | \$18.00 | \$ 270.00 |
| Independent Claims | 5 | 3 | = 2 | \$84.00 | \$ 168.00 |
| Multiple Dependent Claim Fee | | | | \$280.00 | |
| TOTAL FILING FEE | | | | | \$1188.00 |

- ☒ Applicants claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of the earlier filing date of foreign application number 2002-226926, filed on August 5, 2002.
- ☒ Assignees for this application are Nikon Corporation and Sendai Nikon Corporation, and applicants request that this information be listed on the published application.
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$1,188.00 to cover ☒ filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with the filing of this application and recording any assignment filed herewith, or credit over-payment, to Account No. 02-4550. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.

DLS:cmw 08/05/03
Attorney Reference Number 4641-65955
PATENT

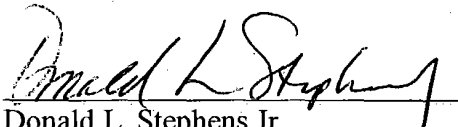
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☒ Please return the enclosed postcard to confirm that the items listed above have been received.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

By


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cc: Docketing